



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 604

January Session, 2007

House Bill No. 7243

House of Representatives, April 26, 2007

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION OF A SECURE FACILITY FOR FEMALE JUVENILES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) Not later than October 1, 2008, the
2 Department of Children and Families shall establish a secure facility
3 for females age fourteen to eighteen, inclusive, who have been
4 convicted as delinquent for commission of a delinquent act or serious
5 juvenile offense and are considered high risk juvenile offenders. Such
6 facility shall have trained staff and offer rehabilitation services and
7 other programs for female juvenile offenders.

8 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) For the purposes described in
9 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
10 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
11 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
12 the aggregate one million dollars.

13 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the

14 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
15 Department of Children and Families for the purpose of constructing a
16 secure facility for females age fourteen to eighteen, inclusive, who are
17 convicted as delinquent for commission of a delinquent act or serious
18 juvenile offense and are considered high risk juvenile offenders.

19 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
20 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
21 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
22 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
23 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
24 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
25 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
26 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
27 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
28 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
29 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
30 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
31 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
32 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
33 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
34 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
35 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
36 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
37 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
38 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
39 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
40 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
41 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
42 due.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2007	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2007	New section

KID *Joint Favorable C/R*

JUD

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits)	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to establish a secure facility for high-risk delinquent females by October 1, 2008.

It also authorizes the issuance of \$1 million in General Obligation (GO) bonds for the secure facility, effective 1/1/07. The General Fund debt service cost to bond this amount over 20 years at a 5.0% interest rate is \$1.5 million.¹

sHB 7077, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, includes FY 08 funding of \$273,750 to support the one-quarter year operating cost associated with a new 5-bed facility for girls involved with the juvenile justice system (assumed opening date of 4/1/08). \$1,095,000 is included within sHB 7077 for FY 09 to support the facility's annualized operating cost.

Amounts included within sHB 7077 were formulated based upon an

¹ It should be noted that \$1 million has been included within sSB 1119, as favorably reported by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, for DCF to develop a self-contained secure treatment facility for juvenile girls.

assumption that the girls' facility would be co-located with an existing DCF-operated facility. This would have allowed for economies of scale to be achieved, as administration, education, health care, child care, food services and maintenance staff would have been in place to support the new program. Correspondingly, building space requirements would be lessened given these shared functions.

Upon further review, a concern has been identified regarding whether federal law precludes the co-location of the secure facility and the non-secure existing facility. The DCF has requested that the Office of the Attorney General review this issue and is awaiting an opinion. If it is concluded that the girls' facility must be operated as a distinct stand-alone facility, its operating and capital costs will be significantly increased above amounts included within sHB 7077 and sSB 119. Projections indicate that operating a free-standing facility would cost in excess of \$3 million annually (including fringe benefits²), with estimated capital costs of approximately \$3.6 million.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

² The fringe benefit costs for state employees are budgeted centrally in the Miscellaneous Accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated first year fringe benefit rate for a new employee as a percentage of average salary is 25.8%, effective July 1, 2006. The first year fringe benefit costs for new positions do not include pension costs. The state's pension contribution is based upon the prior year's certification by the actuary for the State Employees Retirement System (SERS). The SERS 2006-07 fringe benefit rate is 34.4%, which when combined with the non pension fringe benefit rate totals 60.2%.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7243

***AN ACT CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION OF A SECURE FACILITY
FOR FEMALE JUVENILES.***

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/06/2007)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/13/2007)